

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the specification to correct for one misspelled word. No new matter has been introduced. No prosecution on the merits is required due to this amendment.

In the patent application, claims 1-17 are pending.

In the Office Action, all pending claims are allowed.

At section 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Figure 2 is considered as Prior Art and a legend should be added thereon.

It is respectfully submitted that Figure 2 was obtained from a co-pending application, Serial No. 09/612,207, which is assigned to the same assignee of the present invention (p.1, lines 5-7; p.6, lines 16-21). At the time of filing the instant application, Figure 2 had not been published or made public. Thus, Figure 2 is not prior art as far as the instant application is concerned. Accordingly, Figure 2 should not be marked as "Prior Art" as suggested by the Examiner.

At section 2, the Examiner states that the full name of each inventor has not been set forth.

It is respectfully submitted, the two inventors of the present invention are *Ye Wang* (*Ye* is the first name and *Wang* is the last name) and *Miikka Vilermo* (*Miika* is the first name and *Vilermo* is the last name), as shown in the USPTO's Updated Filing Receipt, mailed September 17, 2002.

The Examiner also states that the oath or declaration is not signed by *Mauri Vaananen* and *Leonid Yaroslavsky*.

It is respectfully submitted that although the names of *Mauri Vaananen* and *Leonid Yaroslavsky* appear on the cover sheet of the patent application. *Mauri Vaananen* and *Leonid Yaroslavsky* are not named inventors. The names of *Mauri Vaananen* and *Leonid Yaroslavsky* are not listed in the as-filed Declaration and Power of Attorney.

CONCLUSION

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

No *Ex-parte* matters remain in the patent application that require corrections. Early allowance of the patent application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14, is amended as follows:

As it is well known in the art, the International Organization for Standardization (IOS) founded the Moving Pictures Expert Group (MPEG) with the intention to develop and standardize compression algorithms for video and audio signals. Among several existing [multicannel]multichannel audio compression algorithms, MPEG-2 Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) is currently the most powerful one in the MPEG family, which supports up to 48 audio channels and perceptually lossless audio at 64 kbits/s per channel. One of the driving forces to develop the AAC algorithm has been the quest for an efficient coding method for surround sound signals, such as 5-channel signals including left (L), right (R), center (C), left-surround (LS) and right-surround (RS) signals, as shown in Figure 1. Additionally, an optional low-frequency enhancement (LFE) channel is also used.